Paris, April 1, 1839, Monday Evening

My dear Girls

It is rather late, and I have no fire in my room, to which I have just now returned, but it is pleasantly comfortable without, and so we will have a few words together before I sleep. My last and long sheet was closed I think on Friday Evening. On Saturday my morning was spent as usual at the Jardin des Plantes, returning from whence I looked along the Shops and so on to the Pont du Louvre, which I crossed, pass thro. Palais Royal at the most busy season, when it is all lighted up splendidly, and dined at the Restaurant Colbert at half-past seven. I am fairly exploring (I should say eating) my way through the mazes of French Cookery, and am trying to select from the complicated bill of fare the most peculiar and national dishes, some of which are excellent; others so-so, or very poor. Let me give you an account of a French dinner. You shall take Saturday for an example, premising that the dinner at Restaurant Colbert costs two francs, the season more or less, and that you have soup, three dishes, and a desert, and half a bottle of wine for this sum, and you may have another dish instead of the wine, if you can find room for it. For though I decline the wine, I have been unable to find room for the fourth dish. Well, premising that I was right hungry, we have first, — of course you all know French enough to translate. —

1. Potage vermicelle. — very good
2. Côtelette de veau.
3. Chapon, en fricassée
4. Vol-a-vent ala financière. A regular French dish which though I have often had, I know not what it is made of, — but it is excellent. And now
5. Desert. — Marmelade de pommes. — All this for two francs, something less than forty cents. But enough of cookery. I arrived home in good season, did some necessary writing, and prepared for the Sabbath. Yesterday was Easter Sunday. The English Methodists retain many of the peculiarities of the Episcopal Church, or rather what they have retained from the Catholics. Mr. Toase, the clergyman of the ~~Episcopal~~ Wesleyan Chapel here, where as I have told you I have had the privilege to attend public worship, — announced the week before that on this day, the Sacrament

of the Lord's supper would be administered. I had addressed a note to Mr. Soase, expressing my desire to attend upon this ordinance, to which I received at once a very kind and satisfactory answer, and accordingly I enjoyed that privilege, that in this strange land, in company with twenty or thirty others, in an upper room of an inn, as you may say, for such is the chapel here. I attended service at the same place early in the evening also, and our singing brought to mind, oh! how forcibly the sweet hymns that you are accustomed to sing at that season, and the thought that you were probably at that very moment thus engaged, — thinking possibly some of you, what Dr. Gray was, and how engaged. After service I saw Mr. Soase for a few minutes, and he kindly invited me to call upon him any evening when I had leisure, which I shall gladly do.

— To-day I have been again at the Garden, working as hard as possible, since I have so little time remaining. I dined at half-past six and one of the most famous Restaurants, just to see how it was managed, and returning spent the early part of the evening with Mr. Webb, who lives near me.

On my way from the Garden, I stopped into another Church, I believe the only remaining one of large size and much interest which I had not already seen. A priest was baptising and infants, and I lingered to see the ceremony. He read out of his book a long service addressed to the parents, but so rapidly and slovenly that I am sure they could have understood scarcely a word, finally he poured holy water upon the child's head, and crossed it, saying at the same time a latin formula; and then again he read at the parents with exhortation as fast as his lips could move, which made me think he was in a hurry to get his dinner; and as I was quite ready for mine I came off without waiting for the conclusion. I have forgotten to tell you the name of the church. It is called St. Severin, and is very old, having been built in the year 1210. This is the first of April, and a fine spring day it has been; this the season is little more advanced than at New York. In two weeks I must be again upon the wing, and shall soon meet the summer. I want to see the South of France and sunny Italy. Adieu.

April 2d, Tuesday Evening.

I intended to have had time this evening to write several letters, but DeCaisne has been with me, and did not leave until almost twelve, we had so much to talk about. I have been all the morning at the Garden, have worked very hard indeed and have nearly finished there. Tomorrow is like to be a broken day as I have made an engagement to see Dr. Montagne and his microscope at 12 o'clock, which will take an hour or two out of the very best part of the day, I will try to turn the fragments of the day to some account. But now Good-night.

"To each, to all, a fair good-night
And pleasing dreams, and slumbers light."

April 4th. Thursday Evening.

Yesterday I devoted an hour in the morning, before the time for meeting Dr. Montagne, to the Palace of the Luxembourg, which stands so close that I could throw a stone from my window into those of the Palace. I had not yet seen the interior. — First the Museum des Tableaux &c. — a large collection of the best French pictures bought by governments, and some beautiful Statuary. What strikes is the magnificent staircase of the Chamber of Peers, filled also with Statuary, as well as the various Halls through which you pass. — The Chamber of Peers itself, a beautiful room but rather small, but a large building now being added to the palace is to contain a larger room for their accommodation. — The recess back of the Presidents seat is prettily decorated with busts, the spaces between filled with flags of Russians, Austrians &c — taken by Napoleon. I passed next into the Salle du trône, which is magnificently furnished. — The throne at one end with a carpet of crimson velvet. — The ceilings painted with beautiful frescoes, the walls decorated with Gobelin Tapestry, which you would have taken for very large oil paintings. Then on the story below, the Chapel of the Chamber of Peers, formerly the Chapel of Marie de Medicis, with paintings by Nicolas de Champagne. — and last and most splendid the sumptuous Chamber à coucher de Marie de Medicis, just as it was left by her almost. — The walls are almost covered with gold, except the space necessary for the five large paintings by Rubens: which have been removed to the Manufactory of Gobelin tapestry, to be copied in tapestry. The pictures of

by Rubens in the ceiling still remains, as well as three allegorical pieces by Poussin which surround it, and all three of the latter which cover the walls, panels &c, and are exceedingly beautiful. I will not trouble you with my visit to Dr. Montaigne. — I dined at the other side of the River, and went to hear Mr. Gaylord, if I have the name right, at the Wesleyan Chapel, a preacher who has been living for some years among the churches of the Albigenses & Waldenses in the Alps. He is a man of warm piety and preached an affecting sermon, after which he gave some account of the people he has been with, which was very interesting. Returning I spent the rest of the evening with Gay, which accounts for my not writing yesterday.

To-day, morning at Jussieu's, and with Michel, evening at Mr. Webbs. On my way home from the Garden I visited the Pantheon, which I had passed by so often, and magnificent it is. When within, you might imagine yourself in some vast ancient temple. — I have something more to say about this, — the vaults, the echo-gallery &c. but not at present, for I must say Good-night!

Monday Evening 7. o'clock, 8th. April.

I have set apart the whole of this evening for writing letters, and it is likely to be fully occupied, for I have a very long letter to write to Hooker, one to Bentham, many things to accord for Dr. Torrey, and some letters of business, but I commence with you, my dear girls, to whom I must give some account of myself for these last few days. My latest date is Thursday, — so I must recollect what I was about on Friday. This is soon despatched, for I was all the morning at the Jardin des Plantes, and the evening at Mr. Webbs.

Saturday was a little more diversified; I went at 8 o'clock in the morning to Prof. Richard's, who lives near me, examined plants of Michx. &c. — Mother took my breakfast, went to the Garden for 3 or 4 hours, but returned at two o'clock to see the Chamber of Peers in session; Mr. Gay having provided me with a ticket of admittance, which procured me a very good seat. The members all wear a kind of court dress, & the military peers swords, and those who have

there display the insignia of the order of the "legion of honor" and so forth. Several new beers were admitted, but before they were introduced, a number of Jews made some remarks which could not have been very flattering to them; the creation of a new batch just at this time having given much dissatisfaction to the old ones. Among others, I heard a little speech from the famous Marshall Soult. Lord Brougham, who is now in Paris, was present. I recognized him across the room by his homely face, which he is in the habit of twitching and contorting incessantly, as if it pained him. He seemed to listen with much attention.

In the evening I paid a visit to Mr. Spach, looked over plants and so forth until 10 o'clock, returned shivering with cold, for the weather here is like March in New York. I am now sitting by a large fire, and yet I am shivering.

On Sunday I attended church at the usual place, and heard in the morning an excellent sermon from the words "Unto you who believe He is Precious". In the evening Mr. Gaillard, as I believe his name is spelled, from those verses in the 7th. Chapter of Revelation, which in our beautiful Liturgy "Who are these in bright array" is a paraphrase. The text itself was sufficient to bring you all vividly before me; and the sermon was such as I count it a great privilege to hear in this strange land.

I think I have told you that Sunday is a holiday in Paris, a day on which the streets the gardens and places of amusement are crowded. Shops of all kinds are open as well as during the week, and seem to be more than usually thronged on this day. The Public collections and museums are mostly open also; so that the government encourages this profanation of the Sabbath.

This morning (Monday) I paid another early visit to Mr. Richard, called also on Mr. Webb also for a few minutes, went thence to Baron Delessert's, in whose library I spent a portion of the day. DeCaisne met me there, and we went together to look at Microscopes at Charles Chevalier's: thence I went to attend a meeting of the National Institute, where I saw the Savans, but heard nothing particularly interesting to me. Returned to my lodgings, took my dinner, and here I am. You may judge of the manner in which Sunday is spent here when I tell you

that I had for last Sunday three different invitations for studying plants (one from a so-called Protestant too, who I learn was quite surprised at my refusal), and one to a tea-party.

Tuesday Evening, 8th April.

In the morning went to hear Michel lecture at the Sorbonne; he speaks so distinctly, that I understood him tolerably well in the general. The lecture-room is old and incommodious, rather better to be sure than the accomodation for the students of the University in the olden time, when the students used to sit upon straw spread in the street, — but cetainly not very fine. I went afterward to the Ecole de Medecine, heard the Professor of Anatomy for a few minutes, came away, saw two or three books that I wanted in a stall belonging to a shop, priced them, finding the prices much higher than I intended to give so. I named the price I would give, was amused with the perseverance of the very genteel Madame, who reduced her price down to within two francs of my offer and then laboured hard to make me take them. I advanced one franc, but utterly refused to give a sous more. "Vous n'etes pas raisonable" says Madame. "Je suis très raisonable", I replied, "mais votre prix n'est pas raisonable". So I left the shop, Madame very coolly replacing the books on the stall with one eye turned toward me to see if I would relent. I had got some distance down the street when the boy came running after me, to say that I might have the books. "Mais ils sont très bon marché". Cela may be for they way you are obliged to make bargains here. Went to the Garden, returned to dine here. Paid a little visit to Mr. Webb, and must write the remainder of the evening.

Thursday Evening, 11th April.

My approaching departure makes it a very busy time for me. Let me recollect what I did yesterday. I went first to Baron Delessert's, studied in his magnificent library until about one o'clock; then visited my banker who is near, drew more money; then a bookseller to arrange some matters about our Flora (which I failed to do); went to the Bibliothèque du Roi, where they have miles of books and acres of manuscripts, but as it was not a public day, I did not see half what I wished. I have made arrangements however for a future day. I went next to the Post-Office, and took a place in the Malle-post (which is very much quicker than the diligence) for Lyons, to go on Monday

so that the time of my departure is pretty well fixed. I must wait to learn the time of the departure of the carriages for Sèvres & Versailles, which places I intend to visit tomorrow. Then I met Charalier the Opticien by appointment, to consult about Microscopes; afterwards I shopped for an hour or two: shopping is tedious work here, from the great danger of being cheated; for it seems a regular system to cheat every one who speaks English. Dinner followed, for you may imagine that by this time I required. — Restaura to Robert, my favorite place. — I recrossed the river, left my parcels at my lodgings, called on Mr. Gay, with whom I found Mr. Bossier, a Swiss Botanist that I had often seen at the Garden, and also Aug. St. Hilaire, who returned but a few days since from Montpelier.

On reaching my room at half past 10, I found a note from Mr. Webb saying that Mr. Spach had a message for me from Michel, and asking me to call if I had time. — Went immediately, but was too late, Webb had gone to bed. Returned, arranged accounts &c. and went to bed myself.

To-day I have been if possible still more busy, at least I have accomplished more, tho' I made a bad beginning. The Concierge promised to call me at eight, but I awoke myself at nine. Consequently it was half past ten before I made my first call, which was upon Mr. Webb to know when I was to see Michel. I called next upon Dr. Montagne to get a letter to the Chief Curator of the Bibliothèque du Roi, which should afford me the opportunity of seeing this the largest Library in the world on a private day viz. Mondays, the only public day while I stay being Friday, when I have something else to do. Ch Chien, I went next to the Louvre, and saw there then and best half of that most magnificent gallery, my passport giving me a ready admittance! These were the paintings of the old masters both Dutch & Flemish and Italian, the greater and better portion of which were not covered as I had supposed by the modern exhibitions. But first as to this famous gallery. It occupies the whole length of the building that connects the Tuileries with the Louvre — the upper story of it — is exceedingly magnificent as to the ceiling &c. — but first imagine its length — about 1400 feet. I have not had an opportunity of looking from this one end to the other

for a curtain is stretched across the middle, separating the the pictures of the present exhibition of French pictures. I wrote you some time ago from the best part of the choice old pictures that I saw to-day. When in the days of the Empire this immense gallery was filled with all the best pictures &c. in all Europe, it must have been a sight indeed. As it is there is scarcely anything like it, and no gallery in the world can compare with it. I have not the picture-mania, and shall not trouble you with a long account which would leave you just as wise as you were before. Suffice it to say I saw very much to admire - some things that I greatly admired, very much that I did not allow time enough to become interested in, as well as many works of the famous old fellows that one like to say he has seen them. - I found that even my passport would not give me admittance into the Gallery of Statuary; ~~but for~~ (I shall address a note to the Director of the Museums for this) but in another part - the only remaining of the principal floor of this immense quadrangle I was more successful, and in this respect the Government ~~to~~ behaves very handsomely to foreigners. A large party of ladies & gentlemen (French) were applying to the porter for admission - mission, but in vain. There is but one day in which it is open to the public, and that is ---- Sunday! I showed my passport and was immediately admitted. This portion of the Louvre (the Eastern & Northern sides) consisted first of a magnificent of State rooms - all empty at present and unfurnished, but the walls & ceilings were covered with most elaborately carved wood-work, highly ornamented and gilt. The work I should judge as old as Henry IV. Beyond this was the suite of rooms occupied by the gallery of the Spanish paintings, very rich it is said, and there was plenty of artists making copies. - but I had little time to look at them. This led to the Northern side which is wholly filled by the maritime museum, that is as to the suite of rooms which look into the Court, as there seems to be another suite behind (offices perhaps) into which I was not admitted. Here are models of ships,

of all sorts of nautical instruments, plans of dock-yards, panoramas of harbours and every thing else you can imagine. At the end of this salon, forming part of the Western side are several large rooms filled chiefly with sketches, chalk or crayon, or in ink, some few in colors, which seem to be the original designs of a great part of the older masters. I did not look at them enough to tell much what they were, but there were plenty of artists copying. There were also immense volumes of engravings, which I should have liked to examine. But time presses, so away. I went next to the Prefecture de Police, took my original passport, then in a Cabriolet, to the rear the Custom House, in a distant part of the city, to make arrangement for sending my boxes to Havre. Again in a Cabriolet to the Ecole de Medecine, looked through the museum which was to-day open to the public, saw for a moment the examination of a batch of candidates for a vacant professorship by concours. also the examination of students in the same way: then I visited the Musée Dupuytren a surgical museum of great extent. — then went to the St. Louis (opposite the Garden to call on M. de St. Hilaire — not at home by which I saved a little time. Next to the Garden looked on my way at the animals — the Hyenas, Lions, Giraffe, Monkeys &c. — besides a few large snakes. — then called at Michel's rooms who took a great deal of trouble to show me most curious things in vegetable anatomy, but of this I will write to your good Papa, who will care much more for it than you! After this I saw DeBaisne for a few minutes at the Botanical gallery, took one of the young lads with me, saw the Mineralogical cabinet, and that of fossils which occupies a new and most beautifully arranged Gallery. Here I saw many of the famous things I have heard so much of. In the Vestibule to this gallery they are preparing a pedestal for a fine and large statue of Cuvier. I went next to Jussieu's house, talked with him for a few minutes, and bid him good-bye. — on my way home stopped at Ballieres' the bookseller to transact some business. Home. — dined at half past seven. — went to Nichols, remained until half past nine, when I like to go of an evening as I get a good cup

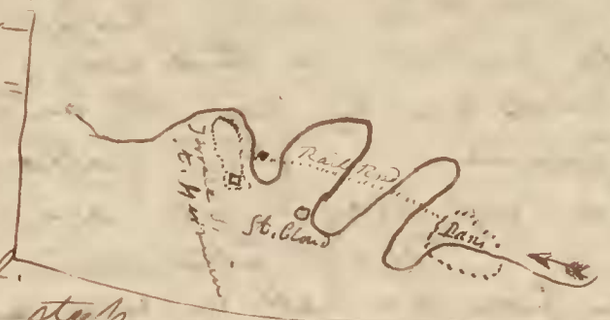
of tea (no common thing in Paris), which after such a day's work was very grateful I assure you. Returned here, took up my pen, and voicé the result; and if I do not write plainly and neatly, it is no great wonder and I trust you will excuse it, for I have other writing also to do this evening. Besides I must rise at early as I have the expectation of another very busy day. On my return this evening I found a polite note from Delessert accompanying a magnificent present, — no less than a copy of the Modern volumes of the Scenes Selectes. An invitation for Saturday evening from M. & Madame Delessert came with it. I am already engaged to Dinner at half past six, for the same day.

Saturday Morning. ½ past 7.

I was too much fatigued last evening to write, so I take a few moments before I commence upon the long list of things to be seen and done to-day, to give you the briefest possible account of my excursion. At 8 o'clock I started in the Omnibus accelerée for Sevres, about 5 miles from Paris. We passed through Passy, a little village celebrated for having been the residence of Dr. Franklin, we came near St. Cloud, so that I had a distant view of the Chateau and a fine one of the Park. it was about half past 9 when I entered the famous royal Porcelain Manufactory of Sevres. The old Concierge showed me completely through the establishment. I saw first the prepared clay in the lumps, saw it formed into plates, bowls &c. — saw the process of coloring ornamental figures upon it. went the furnaces where they are baked, next I saw the glazing put on, then the second heating in the furnace. Thus I saw all the processes of painting, for all the colors & designs are painted with great care by excellent artists. I saw the furnaces where they are again exposed to a moderate heat, to fix the colors. I next saw the great Museum of Porcelain, a collection of specimens from every country, and as far as possible of every age. Here also was a series of specimens of the Porcelain and Coarser pottery made here in almost every year since the establishment in 1738, showing at one view the various steps from the first rude attempts to the present perfection. Here are thousands of models, costly presents from other Porcelain Manufactories &c &c — There is also a cabinet showing all the defects to which porcelain is liable in the manufacture. I looked next to the rooms devoted to painting upon glass, where I saw many fine pictures copied with great accuracy. Lastly the magnificent saloon filled with specimens of the manufacture, which is rich far beyond what I have words to express. There are specimens of every kind from plates and tea-cups to large vases, splendid groups of statuary and every costly article. Any article may be bought, and the price is marked on a ticket affixed. I noticed a set of dinner-plates, elaborately painted, a different view on each, of which the price was 200 francs a piece, vases at from 20,000 to 30,000 francs, Tea sets at from 1000 to 15,000 francs &c. &c. — On many of these articles the choicest pictures of the great Masters are copied with exquisite beauty, having the minute finish of the very finest miniature painting, with all the boldness of painting the originals in oil. Many pictures instead of being made upon vases or ewers &c - are executed upon large porcelain plates, which are framed like ordinary paintings, — These were truly superb. But I must not stop longer. I left at 11, jumped into an omnibus that was passing, and in half an hour was at Versailles, in full view of the most magnificent, certainly the most costly palace now existing in the world. And here I found that my guide-book had misled me, and that the interior, which I had reckoned so much upon seeing, was not visible to-day. Had I known this before I left Paris I could easily, through Mr. Gore, have obtained a private order for admittance from the Governor who resides at Paris. The Keeper was also absent, so that I could not throw myself upon his mercy, so I was obliged to digest my disappointment as well as I could, which I did by the reflection that of the two, it were better to see the exterior, the courts, the gardens and park, than the interior, so I should moreover have more time for the rest of my project for the day. As to the interior this more splendid doubtless by far, yet it must be much of the same kind as that of the Louvre &c, and I have already grown tired of gilded Ceilings and all that. So I obtained various views of the magnificent exterior, strolled through the gardens, enjoyed the beautiful view from the garden front, over the miles of country included in the general park, reminisced upon the consequences which had followed the wicked waste of treasure here by Louis XIV. the impoverishment of the nation, the Revolution with all its horrors, — and much more that I will not trouble you with at present.

Thence I walked to the Grand Trianon, about a mile from the Chateau of Versailles, a very small affair as compared with the former, yet a place of much beauty and great historical interest. I recognized the place at once by the pictures I had seen of it. Here as at Versailles I could only see the exterior though there are some rooms within I much desired to look at. I had quite a good view of the Petit Trianon also with its gardens & grounds laid out in the English style, & the little Swiss village built by Marie Antoinette, where she, with her attendants used to dress and live like Swiss peasants. The cottages are still in good preservation and many are inhabited. Now bidding adieu to all this most interesting ground I took up my march, on foot and alone, for St. Germain, distant about 4 miles. From the heights of Louveciennes I obtained the first view of the Seine and the lovely and broad valley through which it winds. Here I passed the remains of an elevated & striking acqueduct which conveyed water to a royal chateau which formerly stood in the neighborhood, and also Pheleine to the village of Marly through which I passed a little farther on. Then descending rapidly I reached again the banks of the Seine. The terrace of St. Germain directly before me. It was now 3 o'clock. The steep hill was to be ascended by a winding road, and being somewhat leg-weary I stopped a country mans cart which was passing me, the lad who was driving readily gave me a seat by his side and thus I rode into St. Germain. The lad was quite intelligent, and answered all my questions (when he understood me) very readily. He set me down close by the chateau, I gave him 10 sous for his trouble and we parted on good terms with each other. The Chateau of St. Germain, which was a chief royal residence before Versailles was built, is more interesting to us as the place where the Stuarts kept their petty court so many years. It is now converted into a military penitentiary, and I was not anxious to examine the interior, as I am informed scarce any of the original apartments or furniture remain. The exterior is striking, quite of the old style, built of the same little red bricks as the old central portion of Versailles. What is most worth seeing here is the terrace a beautiful park, extending for almost two miles along the brow of the high ridge, and the most beautiful view from it of the valley beneath and before you, the hills that bound your view & the numerous

villages scattered here and there. A finer situation cannot be imagined. The Seine after passing Paris ~~St. Cloud~~ makes a bold sweep turn, somewhat thus!



The view extends quite to Paris (10 miles) though the city is nearly concealed from view, yet you see the grand Arc de l'Etoile distinctly. In the summer it must be surpassingly beautiful.

At 4 o'clock I descended the steep declivity to the commencement of the Rail-Road, took a little refreshment, at 4, 20 minutes we started in cars propelled by steam, and in an hour I was in Paris and taking my dinner at the ~~Restaurant~~ Colbert! — A pretty good day's work!

Saturday.

Rose at 8 o'clock. Breakfast at 9. Called on Richard, not at home, — on Welb, — an hour was engaged until two in getting my passport arranged, being referred and detained some time at the bureau of the Prefet de Police, the American Minister, the charge d'affaires of the Roman States &c. — so that I was too late to attend the Chamber of Deputies for which M. Delessert had very kindly sent me tickets. The required permission from the Directeur des Musées Royaux having been promptly sent according to my request I went for the last time to the Louvre to see the Gallery of ancient sculpture and of Egyptian antiquities, which are not at present open to the public. As to Sarcophagi, Mummy-cases, and Egyptian sculpture I think the collection is not equal to that of the British Museum. But in Grecian & Roman sculpture (naturally the latter) it is extremely rich. One feels here that it is scarcely worth while to visit Italy after seeing this collection, and yet I suppose it was once much richer than at present. I can scarcely think of specifying any thing in particular out of such a large collection, but the two statues that pleased and interested me most were — "Diana the huntress," which is I believe a famous production, and a draped statue of one of the Muses leaning against a ~~column~~ a rough column in a thoughtful position, all sculptured from the same block, the head & face and one hand and arm, which are all that is visible are exquisitely beautiful but robe which covers the whole body and is wrapped round the other arm is executed so skillfully that you can hardly

believe it to be stone. There is also a splendid mosaic, I should think about 20 feet square, which occupies the floor of one end of the gallery; it contains 8 or 9 different pictures, altogether more perfect than I had supposed it possible to produce in this way; all the shades and colors and outlines are as perfect and graceful as in the most finished painting. The gallery which contains all these things is a very beautiful one, but I have no time to say more. —

Went afterwards by appointment to Chevalier's spent an hour & a half in examining microscopes, returned, — dressed, went to dine at Mr. Webbs. — a little party — a bachelors party, for Webb is single. — consisting of Dr. Montague, M. Berthellot, Mons. & Madame Ramon de Lagra, Mr. Spach & his wife, and a young Spaniard whose name I do not recollect. Webb is quite a Polyglotte: he speaks French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian Modern Greek and I know not what beside his own mother tongue. At half past nine I left, took a Cabriolet for Delessert's, where I had been invited to an evening party. — found there several botanists and pasons I knew — Delessert received me cordially, introduced me to Madame D. who was rejoiced to find I spoke English very well. The suite of rooms thrown open was very splendid, and communicating with the last was a pretty green-house, filled with vigorous plants, all in fine bloom, — the whole carpeted and lighted presented a most inviting appearance. The brothers Delessert are said to be very rich, and I suppose can well afford such an expensive establishment. The party broke up at eleven. Besides tea, which is quite English, tho' the French are getting more into the customs of using it, we had ices &c, — but nothing else. The whole affair was conducted without any parade and in quiet good taste. And now for bed. I shall have to close these sheets abruptly early on Monday morning, when I send my box to the roulage to be forwarded to Havre for the Packet of the 24th. You will receive them I trust about the 20th or 21st May, perhaps sooner as there is plenty of East-wind in April. How my next letters will be forwarded to you is more than I can say. We shall see.

The Concierge & his wife, have since they taken it in to their head, I dare say that I am a person of consequence. I lived in such a quiet unpretending way that, although attentive enough, they did not concern themselves very much about me; the woman however has always appeared very obliging. But since several parcels of books have come in for me, a good many billets also, and perhaps because I have had occasion to use their services more than formerly, nothing can exceed their alacrity. The man has got a box made for my books &c, to send to Havre, and I believe he has spent half the day in painting the address on the cover. They of course expect to be remembered for all this on Monday.

Sunday Evening, 14th April.

To-day at the Wesleyan Chapel, I heard a stranger, who preached a most serious and solemn discourse from Proverbs 1: 24–31, to as large an audience as the little Chapel could comfortably contain, who appeared very attentive and interested. There is now a kind of a convention of the Wesleyan preachers scattered through the land assembled here, and there are to hold meetings this week which I should be glad to attend, but before sunset to-morrow I expect (D.V.) to be on the road to Lyons. If my life be preserved and my plans prospered and accomplished I shall be next Sabbath at Montpelier; and I shall be indeed thankful if there and elsewhere on my way I have the opportunity of hearing the Gospel preached in simplicity and in my own language, as at Paris: — but I can scarcely expect this.

Monday Morning, ½ past 7

I am busy packing up my boxes &c, have a world of things to do — am off at 8 this morning. I have barely time to say, Good-bye — Good-bye — all — all all —

Your affectionate Gray.

Here is a letter that will take you a week to read.

I pressed him rather hard upon some of his bad ways, particularly that of his changing specific names, which he knows very well. Webb says he is now falling into an opposite extreme as to species, and will hardly admit any thing to be distinct; but Webb himself rather inclines to multiply species I believe. I am to meet Spach at his place in the Garden tomorrow morning. He is married lately to Miss Legendre, a relative of Michel's who made his drawings in Marchantia &c. — indeed the best botanical artiste in Paris.

What a fine library Jussieu has! And what a capital advantage it is to have a great botanist for one's father! I particularly envy Jussieu his collection of Botanical pamphlets, which fill a large Cabinet, all arranged in families &c. — the largest collection of the kind in the world, Jussieu thinks. He gave me to-day a little print of his father taken in the year his Genera Plantarum was published. He told me, what I did not know before, that Bernard Jussieu superintended the publication of Adulet Pl. Prisma — I could buy that work rather cheap, but think I must refrain. — I bought to-day Schreber's ed. of the Genera Plantarum. 2 parts, 2 vols. in one, bound. — for myself (you have it I believe), and a second copy of Linn. Spec. Plantarum. ed. 3 (which is the 2nd Holm. as you know) reprinted pagination at Vienna, I gave 5 francs, & shall put it down for Sullivant, who should have it, unless indeed you desire to keep it yourself. I have bought (10 francs) the four first vols. of Memoires de l'Institut. 4to. bound. — for Library of Michigan. Ventenat's mem. of Tilia is contained in one, also other botanical papers, and some good Chemical ones &c. Webb is to put up for me a small parcel of Labilliardiere's New Holland plants.

I have bought L'Heritier's Corpus, so now I have the whole complete, and must get it all bound. — P.S. I have just discovered that the copy of L'Heritier is imperfect. I feel confident that Webb knows it not, and I of course cannot tell him. I shall have all bound in one thick volume.

Monday Evening 8th April. I finished early this morning at Richard's the examination of those species upon which the Herb. Boiss. Michx is not satisfactory. Richard boasts of his set as the authentic one (which is true), but it

is not as complete, nor as good as the Other - which is partly owing to Richard having divided with Kunth when he could. Michaux must have made a capital collection, since it has moreover supplied the General Herbarium with a pretty extensive set. Desfontaines & Jussieu with many Others I met in Herb. Ventenat (Delessert), they say D.C. has some, and who besides I know not. As to Carex C. vulpinoidea Mich. = multiflora!
C. sicula " = Oderi!
C. lenticularis " = concolor R. Br. = a form of the Amer. C. acuta or stricta
C. paupercula " = limosa var. irrigua!
C. miliaris " = C. Parryana Dewey or near it (2 stigmas)?
C. striata " = C. polymorpha of W. Richard cat.! & W. Mspr.?
C. laxiflora " = C. pellita!
About the rest there is no question. But I have something better than all this to tell you. I have discovered a new genus in Herb. Mich.! - at the end among Mantua ignota. It is from that great unknown region the high mountains of N. & W. Carolina! We have the fruit, with the persistent calyx, and style, but no flowers, and a guess that I made about its affinities has been amply borne out on examination by DeCaisne and myself. It is allied to Galax! but on very distinct genus, having an illary 1-flowered scapes (the flower large), and a style like a Pyrola, long & recurved declined. Indeed I hope it will settle the riddle about the family of Galax, and prove Richard to be right when he says Ord. Ericarum. I claim the right of a discoverer to affix the name. So I say as this is a good N. American genus and comes from near Kentucky it shall be christened Shortia, to which we will stand as godfathers. So Shortia galacifolia Torr. & Gr. it shall be, I beg you to inform Dr. Short, and to say that we will lay upon him no greater penalty than this necessary thing, - that he make a pilgrimage to the mountains of Carolina this coming summer and procure the flowers. Please say an injunction upon Nuttall that he publish no other Shortia, and I will do the same to Hooker in a letter that I am now writing. Indeed I think I will tell him some of its chief peculiarities, and then give him leave to publish the extract in Annals that Editions if he thinks it worth while.

I attended a meeting of the Institute this afternoon. An election of a Correspondant took place, which ran very close between Chas. Buonaparte and Agassiz, but the latter carried it.

I must not forget to tell you about the Loganiaceous plant from Florida, for so DeCaisne (to whom I gave leave to sacrifice a flower for a drawing) has determined it to be: so Brown's hint is confirmed. There is something rather queer about the style, which as Br. Brodr. is not before me I cannot say whether it is also the case in any of the subgenera or genera he has indicated.

Euphorbia, DeCaisne says is certainly Apocyneous - Nuttall I believe places it in Boragineæ.

9th April.

I heard Michel lecture to-day, commencing his course at the Sorbonne. He is a very good and clear lecturer, of the colloquial sort, and illustrates very well by rapid sketches on the black-board. I believe you did not see him. In the contour of his features and in expression he is a good deal like St. Peters, except that his countenance is more attenuated, his features small and very little prominent and his complexion light. At the Ecole de Medecine I was not fortunate enough to hit the Chemical Professor, I heard a portion of lecture in Anatomical Theatre, but soon came away.

I have had another fine lesson from Michel, showed me all the drawings of the Jussiæa of which I had three copies.

Ever thine Asa Gray.

I write to-day. -

Notabilia varia

Ellisia Nuttl. was described a little before us by three authors under two different names. — 1st by Cambessèdes in Jacquemonts travels under the name of Oligomeris, 2nd by Webb and Berthollet. Hist. Nat. des Isl. Canari. under the name of Reseda la Webb has Jacquemonts plant from Himmayla & his own growing together. They are absolutely the same. I am to examine them soon, but have scarce a doubt they are even the same species as ours. Webb has promised me a specimen. It is also the Reseda glauca of Delile ex Egypto. It is curious that the plant should at the same time be described from almost every part of the world; and not less so that the three names hit upon should have all meant the same thing, viz: a reduced Reseda.

I have just spent the evening with Gay. He is publishing Carices in Am. Sci. Nat. — has hit upon some of Boott's notions; but not all. He is a laboriously minute observer, and will do pretty well, but like Boott inclines to make too many species. He insists upon describing the small form of C. Hitchcockiana from Dr. Sartwell and Kentucky as a distinct species, in which he may be right. He wished to name it after me, but I declined the honor, and have transferred it to Dr. Sartwell the discoverer, whose name it is to bear. Gay will send to you when he has finished his articles in Am. Sci. Nat. a copy for yourself and another for me. I have given him a copy of your Monogr. of Cyperaceae, the only one you sent to Paris.

In the last part of Hooker's Flora you see a genus figured under the name of Heterostylis. Ad. Jussieu told me Monday that this is certainly Lilaea H.B. and that Hooker has not described it wholly correctly. When he mentioned it I at once recollected the plate of Lilaea in Plantes Aequinoctiales, which you will see it. I don't mean to tell Hooker this. Let him find it out himself. Phyllospadix Hook. Ad. Jussieu thinks nothing but Rostera.

Delessert reclaimed me very kindly when I called on him. I must call again soon, and consult especially his rich library. He showed me a list he had just ordered from New York; among which of course was our Flora. I should have offered him a copy but now it is scarcely worth while. I wish I could somehow induce him to send you a copy of the 3rd volume of the Icones Selectae, and even the fourth, which is shortly to be published (Compositae) and thus complete your set. You speak of the hiatus in our books caused by the U.S. Sea Expedition; —

But I shall more than make that up. I shall not see De=
Candolle here. Delessert does not expect him until May.
I shall leave the books & parcels for him with Delessert, and
make De Candolle take back to Geneva with him all my parcels
that I do not wish to take with me to the South.

April 2d. Evening, or rather April 3rd, as it is
past Midnight.

I have worked to-day as hard as I could
from 10 to half past 5 o'clock at the Nat. Gen.
Mus. Nat. and have finished. Apart from Michaux's
plants, of which they have nearly a set distributed, they are
wretchedly poor in N. Amer. species, — almost none of Lam.
or Poir. — I except the plants given by LeConte, Torrey &
&s. which are arranged but not incorporated. The present
Gallery of Botany is exceedingly fine & spacious — & well plan=
ned. I have gone carefully through all Nat. Mich.
(from your limited time you made some bad slips in
the Genera of Mich. which I say, I am sorry to say has
found out) — putting all dubious matters to the settled by
examination of Richard's set. — I have gone through
De la Pylaie's herb. completely and carefully. I have
examined the Herb. given by Humboldt, not complete
but said to be as large as Kunth's own set or more
so. — labelled by Kunth. — I have looked at every thing
here which I thought could interest us, but some I found
not, such as Cercocarpus. — I have examined some other
separate sets of the same kind. I am now ready to
glance through Nat. Russian, which is said to contain
many of Lam. & Poir. — to spend a little time in Richard's,
a few hours more for descriptions at Webbs, and per=
haps Berlandier — those there are distributed through
Webb's immense collection, — this I can do however in
Evenings. — than a morning or two at Delessert's which
will be more occupied with examination of books than
plants, will I believe finish. Webb has promised to
give me ~~a collection~~ some plants of Bibl. Berlandier, which he
brought, as he did Mercier's in which he got many
of Nuttall's plants. He has also a collection of Lady
Dalhousie's from N. Amer. all Drummond &c &c. — for
he is pretty rich in N. Amer. but not all arranged
yet. Webb has most generously presented
me with a complete copy of L'Heritier's works (in
sheets) except the Geraniums, which I have this day
bought of the fils Meilhac, for which I was obliged to
give six francs. I shall have the whole bound in
two large folio volumes. — Cornus & Saturea duplicates in
one. Stirpes Nova & Geraniologia in the other. I think
thus far that the few copies of Flora I have given away
have turned to good account. I meant to have
gone to Russier to-morrow but Webb has made an
appointment with me to see M. Montaigne (Muscologist &c.)
Lespès, which is one of the "plus beaux chefs" of Pharadise,
and will enable me to decide if I may venture upon
one for Guillemin.

On Saturday DeCaisne told me almost by accident,
that he was to do the Asclepiadea for DC. Prodr. at
the same time showing me a paper by him on the family
that I was unacquainted with, much to his surprise, but
he at once gave me a copy. You must know, that
although I knew nothing scarcely of this family when I
left you, and now [illegible] little as to general structure, yet
I pride myself a little on my researches in extricating
the synonymes of the species in London, in Mr. Linn.
Hort. Cliff. Mr. Grenv. Banks, Walt. & Pursh. & have
Mich. Accordingly on Monday (yesterday) DeCaisne
and myself had a regular examination of all the species
he could find here, & I furnished him with all my
notes upon the synonymes, and left with him those I
had with me from your herb. to be returned to London
in September next. DeCaisne has been with me almost all
this evening. I find that very many of the pamphlets
we have sent from time to time have miscarried, particul=
arly the copies of my Constantine, sent by Castelnau,
and what is mortifying, Guillemin & Russier retained
[illegible] copies, but M. Brongniart & DeCaisne none. I
then have just sent my only remaining copy here (for your
sister me none) to Brongniart, with an explanation.
There is a second species of Podophyllum from Cashmere
or Himalaya, P. Emodi, Wall. Royle, — also collected
by Jacquemont, from whose specimens DeCaisne has
given me a piece. What is most curious it is bi-nodose
and therefore comes regularly into Berberidea except in
wanting the dehiscence of anther by valves (which DeCaisne
tells me is also the case in Nandina), and so R.
Brown's views are confirmed. I should not wonder if
the sly old chap had seen a specimen from Wallich
when he appended the note to Congo voyage a Berber=
idee.

Thursday Evening, 4th April.

Yesterday saw Dr. Montaigne, the Muscologist, and examined his Microscope thoroughly, which is one of the latest and best of Ch. Chevalier's. To-day I spent the Morning at Jussieu, looking up Lamarckian species &c, in Hb. A. L. Jussieu — was very successful in Hypericum, but have no time now to give you details. In the afternoon Webb by appointment met me at the Garden, and we went to see Michel, a man well worth seeing I assure you. Webb acted as interpreter, when it was necessary, for Michel speaks with such distinctness that knowing what he was about I could understand him pretty well. Examined his Microscope, which is a good one, but I think not equal to the best English, got some good hints, &c. — am to call again. He is very communicative, and you missed much in not seeing so extraordinary a man. He showed me a series of drawings & engravings on which he has been long engaged for a memoire on the structure of ~~roots~~ roots. Splendid drawings, and he explained to me what I before could not form a clear idea about, viz: how the curious emboitement or thickening of the walls of cells takes place by the development of new cells within the old. He showed me what I at once recognized as the so-called gridiron-tissue which I had seen in England, and I noticed that he explained it in the same way as Brown. He promised me copies for self & friends of the late paper of his on Embryologie in Compte Rendu, just now read before the Institute (which will also be published with a part of the plates in Ann. Sci. Nat. and finally more completely in Archiv. des Museum.) — in which he says he has completely upset the new-fangled notions of Schleiden, Unger &c, (adopted by Endlicher), and what is remarkable his investigations on the subject were made before he knew of their views, and the publication is only a little hastened on account of theirs. This evening I have been with Webb, looking up Desfontaines' & Poiret's plants, also Forms of Speech. Did I tell you I have seen a good deal of Speach of late. He does not agree well with the other botanists of the Garden, but there are some good points about him, and he is mending every day.